As I shared yesterday, the House voted to repeal ObamaCare today, and I'm happy to inform you that it has passed. I spoke before the House in support of repeal and I want to take the opportunity to share my remarks with you. You can see the full text of my comments appears below. Tomorrow the House is expected to instruct committees that oversee health care issues, including the Ways & Means Committee on which I serve, to develop solutions that will bring down health care costs without hurting the economy or causing long-term, crippling debt. As a starting point for this effort, I plan to reintroduce the "Reform Americans Can Afford Act," a measure that had the full support of Republican leadership in the last Congress. Today's action in the House is the beginning of a longer battle to repeal ObamaCare, but one that I will not rest from until we are successful.

"Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation to repeal Obamacare. Americans expect the new Congress to make job creation a priority and get our country back on the path of fiscal responsibility. Any serious plan to achieve these goals must begin with repeal of Obamacare.

"I represent ten rural counties in Northern California with chronically high unemployment rates. Last year, I spoke with the owner of a restaurant chain based in Redding, California. He had originally planned to open ten new locations this year, creating hundreds of new jobs, but because of the higher labor costs imposed by Obamacare, he has decided not to expand at all. Add these to thousands of similar stories across the country, and it's clear that this law will have a devastating impact on workers and employers alike. That's why the National Federation of Independent Business and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are urging Congress to vote 'YES' on repeal.

"My friends on the other side claim that Obamacare will reduce the deficit. Yet no one truly believes that a new trillion-dollar government entitlement is the solution to a deficit crisis caused by reckless spending. As 200 respected economists wrote just this week, the assertion that Obamacare is 'paid for' is 'based on omitted costs, budgetary gimmicks, shifted premiums from other entitlements, and unsustainable spending cuts and revenue increases.' These economists conclude that Obamacare could actually increase the deficit by more than $500 billion during the first decade and by nearly $1.5 trillion in the following decade.

 "Republicans are committed to advancing genuine reforms that reduce the cost of health care. But we must begin by doing away with this bad law that moves our health care system in the wrong direction. Vote 'YES' on repeal."